

## TWENTY INSURANCE MEN CONVICTED; FINED FOUR HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH

Southampton County Jurors  
Say Underwriters Were  
Guilty of Malicious Act  
Toward This City.

MOTION TO SET VERDICT  
ASIDE TO BE ARGUED LATER

Jury Reaches Agreement After Deliberating Two Hours and Twenty Minutes at Close of Trial, on Appeal from Police Court, Lasting One Month and Seven Days—Three Defendants Not Guilty—Strong Closing Addresses.

Twenty officers and committee-men of the Southeastern Underwriters' Association were found guilty of maliciously, and in wanton disregard of the interests of the public, increasing the rates of fire insurance in the city of Newport News by a Southampton county jury in the Corporation Court of this city last night. The verdict was returned last night at 9:50 o'clock, after the jury had deliberated two hours and twenty minutes, at the conclusion of a trial lasting one month and seven days.

Three of the twenty-three men who were fined \$500 by Justice Brown in the police court—George M. Goodridge, of Norfolk; Jefferson Pearce, of New York; and H. Y. Chatterly, of Baltimore, secured acquittal on the appeal, on their own testimony and the evidence of others, showing that they were not members of the Virginia committee of the underwriters' association at the time the increase of ten per cent. in local rates was put into effect. In his closing address to the jury Commonwealth's Attorney Berkeley agreed that their names be eliminated from consideration.

**Motion to Set Verdict Aside.**  
A motion to set aside the verdict on the ground that it is contrary to law and the evidence was made by Mr. Batchelor as soon as the jury reported. A date for the argument of this motion will be set later and it hardly will be argued before the January term of court.

**Those Found Guilty.**  
The men found guilty by the jury are:

L. R. Warren, Richmond, chairman of Virginia committee.

A. H. Harris, Richmond, secretary of Virginia committee.

A. B. Andrews, Atlanta, Ga., manager Southeastern Underwriters' Association.

W. R. Prescott, Atlanta, president Southeastern Underwriters' Association, and special agent of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

E. B. Dewey, Goldsboro, N. C., member Virginia committee and special agent of the Queen Insurance Company.

B. A. Hamlin, Danville, member Virginia committee and special agent of Pennsylvania Fire Insurance Company.

E. H. Jones, Richmond, member Virginia committee and special agent of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company.

William R. Robins, Richmond, member Virginia committee and special agent of the Virginia State Fire Insurance Company.

A. M. Travers, Richmond, member Virginia committee and special agent of Commercial Union.

**Executive Committee.**  
Dan B. Harris, Atlanta, Ga., member executive committee and special agent of The Security Fire Insurance Company, of New Haven, and the Aachen & Spilck.

R. T. Caldwell, Atlanta, member executive committee and special agent of the Westchester Fire Insurance Company.

Guy Carpenter, Atlanta, member executive committee and special agent of the Norwich Union.

George H. Collins, Atlanta, member executive committee and special agent of the Scottish Union.

A. L. Brooks, Atlanta, member executive committee and representative of E. G. Siebel's general agency.

R. N. Hughes, Atlanta, member executive committee and special agent for Peoples National and other companies.

Dana Blackmar, Columbus, Ga., member executive committee and vice-president Georgia Home Fire Insurance Company.

H. C. Hare, Jacksonville, member executive committee and agent for various companies.

J. S. Middleton, Atlanta, member executive committee and special agent for the Aetna company.

Benjamin J. Smith, Charlotte, N. C., member executive committee.

### HISTORY OF THE INSURANCE CASE

May 1, 1910—City license tax ordinance, increasing tax on fire insurance companies, went into effect.

May 12—"Pink slip," issued by Virginia Committee of Southeastern Underwriters' Association, increasing fire insurance rates in Newport News ten per cent., beginning at noon, May 12.

May, 18—Twenty-three officers and Committeemen of Southeastern Underwriters' Association arrested at Hot Springs, Va., during annual session of the association, by Chief of Police John W. Reynolds, on warrants sworn out by Commonwealth's Attorney C. C. Berkeley, charging an unlawful, wicked and malicious conspiracy to fix and control rates of insurance in Newport News, etc.

June 9—Defendants appeared before Police Justice J. D. G. Brown and hearing began.

June 19—Justice Brown reserved decision.

June 29—Justice Brown found all of the defendants guilty and fined them \$500 each. Appeal by defendants and bond given for appearance in Corporation Court.

September 12—Announced in Corporation Court that case had been continued by agreement until October 17.

October 17 to 20—Argument on demurrer and motion to quash warrants.

October 31—Motion to quash overruled, warrants amended and argument on motion for change of venue begun.

November 1—Motion for change of venue overruled, and motion for outside jury sustained. Deputy Sergeant Gray left for Southampton county to get jury.

November 3—Jury arrived and taking of testimony began.

November 5—Court adjourned over until after election.

November 9—Taking of testimony resumed.

November 19—Evidence all in and jury discharged pending argument on instructions.

November 21—Argument on instructions.

November 23—Instructions given jury and addresses by counsel commenced.

November 25—Argument concluded and jury returned verdict finding twenty of defendants guilty and fining them \$400 each. Motion to set aside verdict made, to be argued later.

tee and special agent of the Home Fire Insurance Company of New York.

H. M. Tanner, Atlanta, member executive committee and special agent of the Agricultural Insurance Company.

**Surprise to Defendants.**  
The verdict came as a surprise to the defendants. When Judge Barham allowed instructions under which the jury had to bring in a verdict of acquittal unless it was believed from the evidence that the ten per cent. rate increase was imposed upon the people maliciously, and not as a bona fide business proposition to cover the additional license taxation, the insurance men and their counsel appeared to be supremely confident for the commonwealth, in spite of the granting of their instruction defining the legal meaning of the word malice, probably began to fear that all of their work and all of the trouble to which the court and everybody concerned had been put would count for naught.

However, when, after being out a few minutes, the jury returned to ask for information concerning the positions occupied by the defendants

named in the two warrants, nearly everybody in the court room jumped at the conclusion that the members of the Virginia committee would be convicted and the officers and executive committeemen acquitted.

**Closing Addresses.**  
The closing addresses to the jury were made yesterday. Mr. Harrison, speaking for the defense, and Commonwealth's Attorney Berkeley spoke from shortly after 10 o'clock until court adjourned for the midday recess. He contended wrongly that the commonwealth had utterly failed to substantiate the charges brought against his clients. He read the court's instructions, and insisted that there was not the slightest evidence to show that the defendants had been guilty of a malicious act; that the rate increase made for this city was a legitimate act of business, made necessary by the increase in the already excessive license taxation by the city council.

**"Blow at People's Liberty."**  
Captain Berkeley closed for the commonwealth in an able address, beginning a few minutes after 2 o'clock and concluding at 6 o'clock. He declared that the testimony of Mr. Warren himself proved beyond a doubt that the rate increase was made in wanton disregard of the rights of the people of Newport News. The use of the rate making power held by the insurance combination in this way, he said, is a blow at the liberties of the people, "a blow struck at the very foundation stone of the republic."

In explaining his own attitude in this prosecution, which had been criticized by counsel for the defense, Captain Berkeley said Mr. Batchelor was right in asserting that the commonwealth's attorney should ask that a defendant whom he believed to be not guilty be discharged, but went on to say that the rule works both ways and that when he believes a defendant guilty it is his duty to ask the jury for a conviction. In concluding he said that he had tried to do his duty, and that he now transferred the responsibility to the jurors.

**Jury Out Over Two Hours.**  
Court took a recess from 6 o'clock to 7:30 o'clock for supper, and the jury retired to agree upon a verdict at 7:20 o'clock. A few minutes later the jury returned for further instructions, then followed two hours with the door of the jury room closed.

The jurors filed in and the clerk read the verdict at ten minutes to 10 o'clock.

The verdict was received in profound silence. The defendants and their counsel were surprised and disappointed, and they showed it in their faces. There were not more than a dozen spectators in the court room.

By agreement of counsel, the defendants were not required to renew their bonds pending the disposition of the motion for a new trial. The defendants, Messrs. Harrison, of Lynchburg, and King, of Atlanta, of counsel for the defense, and the members of the jury will leave the city this morning.

The costs of this case, which will have to be paid by the defendants if they finally lose, will amount to hundreds of dollars. Besides this, it is probable that the cost of counsel, the record, traveling expenses, hotel bills, etc., probably have amounted to fifteen thousand dollars, to say nothing of the time lost by the twenty-three defendants.

**Poor Pay for Jurors.**  
The Southampton county citizens who composed the jury were, Jethro Butler, W. D. Bell, Jesse I. Cobb, J. T. Rowe, W. T. Joyner, J. W. Turner and Y. C. Handley. All of them are

## SHOCK FROM WIFE'S DEATH PROVES FATAL TO HUSBAND

Son of Secretary of War Dickinson  
Passes Away After Long Illness.

(By Associated Press.)  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24.—Jacob M. Dickinson, secretary of war, received word tonight of the death of his son, Overton Dickinson, at Belle Mead stock farm, near Nashville, Tenn.

The secretary had just returned from a visit to his son, whom he found apparently much improved. He left immediately tonight for Nashville.

The younger Dickinson had been in ill health for more than a year and succumbed to heart failure. His illness was said to be directly due to the shock following the death of his young wife some fourteen months ago. He was manager for the secretary's noted stock farm.

The secretary was to have entertained a large party at the army-navy football game Saturday, among the guests being Mrs. and Miss Taft. Because of the unexpected death of his son, the invitations for the event have been recalled.

**Picks Up Boat and Man.**  
(By Associated Press.)

BEAUFORT, N. C., Nov. 24.—The steamship America, which passed Diamond Shoal lightship early today, reported having picked up a small power boat and one man, supposed to have been blown out to sea several days ago.

**BELIEVED ETHEL LENEVE.**  
(By Associated Press.)

Friend of Dr. Crippen Sued for Passenger on the Majestic.

(By Associated Press.)

QUEENSTOWN, Nov. 24.—A young woman, supposed to be Ethel Clara Leneve, boarded the steamer Majestic when the vessel touched here on her way to New York today. Questioned, she emphatically denied this identification. Those in close touch with Miss Leneve say that she is still in England, remaining in seclusion to avoid the annoyance resulting from the unpleasant notoriety which she gained as a friend of Dr. Crippen, who yesterday was hanged for the murder of his wife.

**THANKSGIVING HIS UNDOING.**  
(By Associated Press.)

Nothing To Be Thankful For, He Commits Suicide.

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—Feeling that he had nothing to be thankful for while all about him were people enjoying the Thanksgiving Day, Michael McGee, 26 years old, committed suicide in Central park this afternoon by shooting himself in the head.

"I have nothing to be thankful for on this day of thanksgiving," passers-by heard him mutter. With that he drew a revolver and, pressing the muzzle to his head, fired. He died instantly.

**Bad Day for Aviators.**  
(By Associated Press.)

MOBILE, Ala., Nov. 24.—Wind conditions today proved too great a handicap for J. A. D. McCurdy and Augustus Post, the two aviators participating in the aviation meet being held here this week. McCurdy made two short flights but was unable to soar above fifty feet and after Post made one attempt the day's program was called off.

**Meet Next in Mexico City.**  
(By Associated Press.)

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, Nov. 24.—Mexico City was awarded the next session of the Trans-Mississippi Commercial Congress in 1911 at the convention of that organization this afternoon. Memorial services for the late Thomas H. Walsh, of Colorado, were held tonight.

**Schooner Is Sunk.**  
(By Associated Press.)

BEAUFORT, N. C., Nov. 24.—A large schooner, with topmast projecting fifteen feet above water, is reported to have been sunk a mile and a half east from Diamond Shoal lightship. The wreckage is dangerous to passing vessels. No tidings of the crew, or the name of the vessel have as yet been received.

**Convention Adjourns.**  
(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, N. C., Nov. 24.—After a business session in the afternoon and religious services at night, the sixty-sixth annual State Missionary Convention adjourned after a three days' session. The next convention will be held in Ayden, N. C., the date not yet having been determined.

**Would Overturn Government.**  
(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24.—Through resident Hondurans in Washington, intimations have reached the state department of a renewal of the efforts made last summer to overturn the existing government of President Davila in Honduras and to install Gen. Manuel Bonilla as president.

**To Fly From Havana to Key West.**  
(By Associated Press.)

MOBILE, Ala., Nov. 24.—J. A. D. McCurdy, one of the aviators who is giving exhibitions of flying here this week last night sent a cablegram to the Havana Post, Havana, Cuba, entering the contest for the \$10,000 prize for a flight from Havana to Key West.

## VIRGINIA TECHS DOWNED BY A. & M.

North Carolina Warriors Win  
Brilliant Battle at Norfolk,  
5 to 3.

V. P. I. TEAM FIGHTS  
DESPERATELY TO END

Twelve Thousand People See "Farmers" Capture All Important Game of Season—A. & M. Has Better and Great Football Machine—Virginia Defeats North Carolina, 7 to 0.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

NORFOLK, VA., Nov. 24.—Although they battled to the bitter end with a courage born of desperation, the football players of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, who had tasted of defeat but once this season, went down before the steel-footed and hard-charging gladiators of the Agricultural & Mechanical College, of North Carolina, on Lafayette Field this afternoon by a score of 5 to 3. It was for this game that the eleven had trained and planned all season, for, aside from the intense rivalry between the schools, victory carried with it the gridiron championship of the South Atlantic States. Hence defeat came as a crushing blow to the Virginia Techs and victory carried unbounded joy into the Carolina camp.

While they were beaten, the Techs were not humiliated. They lost to a better and a great football machine in the most brilliant game of the year in Virginia. Spectacular play followed spectacular play in a mixture of the old football and the new. Both teams played with snap and vim and there was not a dull moment from the first to the last sound of the referee's whistle.

**Twelve Thousand People Out.**  
Gathered in the park were 12,000 cheering enthusiasts and everywhere the red and white of A. & M. and the red and gold of V. P. I. was in evidence. The long stand on the north side of the field was packed to overflowing and it was a veritable riot of color. Four hundred strong, the V. P. I. cadets occupied one entire section of the stand and the three hundred students from A. & M. occupied another section. Each corps was accompanied by a band and both bodies continually cheered their heroes on to greater effort.

Winston Davis, of Newport News, led the V. P. I. rooters and Tech band. Songs and yells followed each other in quick succession, and time and again the boys from Blacksburg begged the Virginians to "hold, hold, hold." The A. & M. student, also kept up a continual din with their college songs and cheers and their shrill whistling. When the game ended, the Carolinians swarmed on the field and surrounded the victorious eleven and a big demonstration followed.

Virginians Fast at Finish.  
Everybody had expected a close and hard-fought game, but none had expected one quite so close and so good. Blunders were made by both eleven, but the good work of all of the players overhauled any misstep. It was emergent from the start that A. & M. had a shade the better of it, for their athletes were slightly cleaner cut than those of V. P. I. and they showed more ginger and charged quickly and fiercely, in comparison to their rapid work, the Virginians seemed a little slow at times, particularly in the first two quarters. But at the finish the Techs were going faster and in the last two minutes of play they swept down the field for seventy yards and threatened to win the game.

While all of the Carolina men played at their very best, Robertson was easily their star, and the star of the game. Time and again he eluded the Techs ends for gains of from five to twenty yards at a clip and he never failed to run back punts won. His line plunging also was a feature. It was Robertson who scored the lone touchdown of the game early in the first quarter after Hughes had muffed up a forward pass from Stafford to Robertson following a double kick from Cool to Stafford on a fake kick formation. Robertson gathered in the leather and ran ten yards across the goal line. Before that he had carried the ball down the field to within striking distance of the Virginia goal, but the Techs held and V. B. Hodgson punted out.

Interference Rather Ragged.  
Though they played a good game, the showing of the Techs was somewhat disappointing to their supporters. Their interference was rather ragged at times and the backs did not shine as they have in previous contests this year. John Hughes, of Newport News, played well considering the fact that he was suffering with a lame ankle. He skirted the ends for

FLYS OVER RICHMOND.

Aviator Travels Over Mile a Minute On Trip.

(By Associated Press.)

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 24.—Fifty thousand people saw Rene Barrier, the French aviator in a Blériot monoplane, fly over Richmond and two of its suburbs today. Nettle because two of his countrymen—Simon and Marros—had made cross-city flights at the fair grounds yesterday, Barrier pleaded with Albert J. Moisant for the same chance and got it. Starting from the field he circled down to the James river over Broad Street Park, where 10,000 people had already assembled for the Virginia-Carolina football game and then cut across Broad street where thousands were out for the Thanksgiving parade. He traveled at an altitude of 2,500 feet. Barrier made the estimated circle of nine miles in 51 minutes.

Simon, Garros and Barrier, in monoplanes, and Friable, in a biplane, went into the air simultaneously soon after the opening of the meet today.

**TEACHERS ELECT OFFICERS.**  
(By Associated Press.)

Virginia Educational Conference to be Held Next at Norfolk.

RICHMOND, VA., Nov. 24.—Norfolk has been chosen as the place for the next annual meeting of the Virginia Educational Conference.

The State Teachers' Association today elected officers as follows: W. H. Keyser, of Harrisonburg; president; Alger Woolfolk, re-elected state secretary; Miss Maud Sharp, of Petersburg, state treasurer. There were also ten vice-presidents elected one from each of the school districts in the state.

**Cotton Warehouse Burned.**  
(By Associated Press.)

TROY, ALA., Nov. 24.—The Atlantic Compress Company's warehouse and compress were completely destroyed by fire this morning and the buildings and machinery are a complete loss. Between 2,500 and 3,000 bales of cotton were also destroyed. Several railroad cars loaded with cotton, were burned. The total loss is estimated at \$300,000, partly covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

**Swindle Over Million.**  
(By Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 24.—Commenting on the arrest yesterday by postoffice inspectors of John W. Knight, senior member of the cotton brokerage firm of Knight, Yancey & Co., Decatur, Ala., Postmaster General Hitchcock today gave out a statement in which he says that the operations of this concern through the alleged fraudulent use of the mails would doubtless exceed a million dollars.

**Will Be 11,328,000 Bales of Cotton.**  
(By Associated Press.)

MEMPHIS, TENN., Nov. 24.—The Commercial-Appeal tomorrow will publish the following:  
"Replies from correspondents of the Commercial-Appeal throughout the cotton states indicate that there was grown this season approximately 11,328,000 bales of cotton, taking no account of linters from the seed."

## HER CITY PLANS MADE

Mrs. Russell Sage's Memorial  
Scheme Announced.

HELPS PERSONS OWN HOME

Project Is To Utilize Tract of 142 Acres of Land on Long Island.

Where Town For 1,500 Families Is To Be Laid Out.

NEW YORK, Nov. 24.—The preliminary plans of the Russell Sage Foundation, established by Mrs. Sage as a memorial to her husband, for the establishment of a model suburban city, providing healthful and beautiful homes for persons of moderate means, were announced today. Briefly, the project is to utilize a tract of 142 acres of land at Forest Hill Garden, Long Island, nine miles from this city, in laying out a town for 1,500 families. The initial financial expenditures for the purpose, as announced now, amount to \$2,250,000. How much more will be needed to carry the plans to completion is not known, but the foundation trustees state that Mrs. Sage is prepared to supply all the funds required to carry out her ideas.

Through the day's announcement it is made plain that the enterprise is not a charity, but is to be made self-supporting and pay a fair return upon its investment. It is to enable persons in moderate circumstances to own their own homes at a minimum cost, while obtaining buildings of better construction than the average individual could erect and amid surroundings and under restrictions that will make the little city an ideal residence place. The minimum cost of paying for a home there is estimated, will be \$25 a month, including principal and interest.

**Minister to Leave Alexandria.**  
(By Associated Press.)

ALEXANDRIA, VA., Nov. 24.—Rev. J. R. Sevier, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, has accepted a call to the pastorate of the First Presbyterian church, of Augusta, Ga., Jan. 1, 1911.

## DIAZ FORCES HAVE SITUATION IN HAND

Reports Say the Mexican  
Government Has Upperhand  
of Revolution.

QUIET IN ALL SECTIONS  
EXCEPT ONE DISTRICT

Strong Gordon of Troops Is Still

Maintained on Both Sides of Border

and It Is Said Any Attempt at Uprising Will Promptly Be Suppressed

—Other Rumors Afloat.

(By Associated Press.)

LAREDO, TEXAS, Nov. 24.—Mexican Consul Miguel Diebold, with headquarters in this city today received official advices which state that quiet has been restored at all points throughout the country. The only exception cited is in what is known as the Guerrero district in the state of Chihuahua. In that section 200 revolutionists are still making attacks on small villages.

The consul says they are not "revolutionists" but are bandits who are in the field to rob and pilfer.

General Louro Vilera, stationed in Nuevo Laredo, was interviewed today. He has received official advices from all points embraced in his jurisdiction extending from Matamoros to Chihuahua, 30 miles above Laredo, on the Mexican side of the river, and says everything is quiet along the border and in the immediate interior.

**Situation Well in Hand.**  
The Mexican government still maintains a cordon of troops which is guarding the border. On the Mexican side of the river troops are on guard from Brownsville to Del Rio and, according to information covering this stretch of territory quiet has prevailed all day. Diebold says the Mexican government has the situation well in hand. Sporadic outbreaks may occur, he says, but the troops are adequate to cope with the situation and any uprising will be immediately suppressed.

**Rumors Afloat.**  
Notwithstanding the tranquil conditions, alarmist rumors are still in circulation. These rumors are not confined to the border towns, but are current even in the capital, Mexico City. A rumor current there today, and which was reported to the minister of war, was to the effect that an attack would be made upon Matamoros today or tonight. This rumor was communicated to General Vilera, who in turn, immediately got in touch with his aides in Matamoros. After a thorough scout of the country a deputy was sent and there was no indication of any outbreak either at Matamoros or in the immediate vicinity.

According to the rumor in the capital, the telegraph wires were to be cut and any report of attack would be impossible. At a late hour tonight the wires were working without interruption.

**March Over Land.**  
General Vilera repeated the rumor to headquarters of the third military zone at Monterey. General Trevino, who left Monterey yesterday with a train load of soldiers for Torreon, had not arrived at a late hour tonight. The authorities say he is marching with his troops over land to the point in the Guerrero district in the state of Chihuahua, where the revolutionists are yet active, carrying on their campaign. If the whereabouts of Francisco I. Madero is known no intimation is given out by the Mexican authorities.

**Diaz Will Restore Order.**  
(By Associated Press.)

PARIS, Nov. 24.—General Bernard Reyes, the Mexican soldier who came to Paris some time ago on a military mission for the Mexican government, denied today the report that he intends to return to Mexico to take a hand in the revolution. To a reporter of the Associated Press General Reyes expressed the opinion that President Diaz, whom he described as a great patriot, would succeed in restoring order and afterward adopt effective measures for allaying the present popular discontent in Mexico.

General Reyes declined to go into details regarding the causes which led up to the present condition of affairs in his country, but expressed the belief that unrest could not be considered as serious and would not last long.

**Madero Well Meaning.**  
(By Associated Press.)

JOE HINANTOUR, Mexican minister of finance, is also in Paris, having arrived here several months ago. Dr. Hinantour declared today that the situation in Mexico is in no sense serious. Local agitators he said have been magnified by Texas frontier reports into a general revolutionary movement. Madero, he said, who is a wealthy son of a former governor

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